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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE OCI #0982/72  
4 Oct. 1972Administrative Revisions in Poland

A rather far-reaching restructuring of Poland's smallest administrative unit, the Gromada, was approved at a party plenum in late September. The Gromada (literally, "hamlet") was considered too small and too ineffective to cope with the demands of a rapidly modernizing countryside. It has been enlarged to about double its present size, given increased authority, a revised structure, and a new name Gmina (meaning "community"). When the new system takes effect in January 1973, there will be 2381 Gminas in Poland, each averaging about 7,000 people. The head of the Gmina, who will be appointed by governmental authorities at the county level, will have responsibility for agriculture, building, transportation, education, culture and public order.

Party leader Gierek, in his speech at the plenum, claimed that the reform was not an isolated measure but part of a larger, more rational administrative reorganization to be implemented gradually. Left unclear, however, is the all-important division of responsibility between the government and the party. Conflicts and overlapping authority of local party and government personnel is now one of the main causes of local inefficiency and the accompanying grumbling by the people. It may be that Gierek intends to give the heads of the Gmina more power to deal with local party affairs than the regime is currently willing to admit; without such power the aim of creating a clear line of administrative responsibility will be difficult to achieve.

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Future Party Congress Being Prepared

Tanjug has reported that "intensive" preparations for the 10th Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, slated for the spring of 1974, have begun. Continuing the pattern established prior to the last LCY congress in 1969, republic and provincial party congresses will be held before the national gathering in an effort to give the six republic and two provincial party organizations a genuine input into the national congress.

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The congress will be held a year after the parliamentary elections scheduled for next spring. These elections will, according to Tanjug, "represent the close of the stage of radical changes in the Yugoslav political system" and mark the final discussions of the constitutional amendments. The goal of these changes is to continue the process of redistributing political power so that "working people (can) realize their role in the self-governed society as directly as possible."

The prime function of the congress will thus be to determine the role of the Party in this new political environment. Economic questions, problems of ideology and foreign policy questions will also be examined. 25X1

#### Trade Union Congress Set for May 1973

The Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia has announced that it will hold its VII Congress from 15-20 May 1973. A major task will be the adoption of the Code of Self-Managers which has been delayed for some time because of the controversy over legalization of the right to strike. The last congress was held in 1968.

The strike controversy may not be the only contentious issue. The Croatian trade union organization recently appealed to all its members to boycott or vote against the new republic law on health insurance. This statute, according to the union, ignores self-management by joining local districts with large groups, thus weakening the workers' position and voice in making policy. The controversy is more symbolic than anything else. The health insurance law appears to be part of the official policy of curbing some of the worst excesses of decentralization. The Croatian union organizations call for a "no" vote, however, is indicative of its determination to fight any move toward reversing decentralization. The issue could boil over onto the floor of the congress next spring. 25X1

#### Embezzlers Beware

Ten Yugoslavs convicted of embezzlement have received sentences ranging from nine years at hard labor to a suspended sentence. The group had been indicted for "relieving" two

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enterprises in Belgrade of over a million dinars (approximately \$60,000). This is just one of many such trials as Belgrade continues to crack down hard on a previously ignored practice of acquiring personal wealth by using one's official position. The sentences are harsh and appear designed to serve as a warning to other who might be tempted to dip into the socialist till.

Japanese and Yugoslav Parties to Patch Things Up

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After a twenty-four year breach, dating back to the Tito-Stalin rift, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia will restore friendly ties. A four-man Japanese delegation will visit Yugoslavia in mid-October for the express purpose of patching things up. Earlier this year the JCP opened the door for rapprochement by publicly admitting its error and by inviting Yugoslav diplomats in Tokyo to attend its 50th anniversary celebrations in July.

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